

REMARKS

Claims 27-52 are the claims pending in the application. Applicants' confirm the election without traverse of claims 27-33. At this time, claims 34-52 are withdrawn from consideration. Claims 27-33 are rejected.

Response to Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 27-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Nobuaki (JP 2002-056863 A).

Applicants respectfully traverse.

Claim 27 of the present application discloses an electrode used for a fuel cell, comprising a substrate with a current-collector arranged on one of the surfaces of the substrate, and a catalyst layer arranged on the other surface of the substrate. The current-collector and the substrate are bonded to each other. The electrode as claimed in claim 27 is a specific electrode that is used in a fuel cell.

In contrast, Nobuaki discloses a fuel cell. As described in Nobuaki, with reference to Figs. 3 and 4 at paragraphs [0002] and [0003], the fuel cell comprises a hydrogen electrode (103), an oxygen electrode (104), charge collectors on the outer surface of both the electrodes (106 and 107), and a central conductor film which is sandwiched between the two electrodes (102). However, even though the hydrogen electrode itself may contain some catalyst, there is no separate catalyst layer lining either of the electrodes.

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application. No.: 10/519,105

Attorney Docket No.: Q85456

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 27 is not anticipated by Nobuaki, since it does not teach each and every element of claim 27. Claims 28-33 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependence from claim 27.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the §102 rejection of claims 27-33.

Response to Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 33 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Nobuaki in view of Vaidyanathan (U.S. Patent No. 4,585,711).

Applicants respectfully traverse.

Applicants respectfully submit that claim 33 is patentable, at least by virtue of its dependence from claim 27. Furthermore, Vaidyanathan does not cure the deficiency of Nobuaki as discussed above. Therefore, claim 33 is not obvious over Nobuaki in view of Vaidyanathan.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and the withdrawal of the §103 rejection of claim 33.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

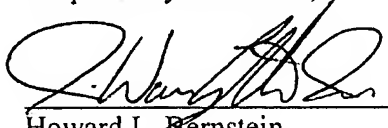
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Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


for Howard L. Bernstein Reg. # 39,283
Registration No. 25,665

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

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Date: July 30, 2008